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THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" All the publications that are part of the U.N.O. Secretariat have been ordered for, and they have agreed to send them as soon as they are published."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Command Papers from 1920 onwards are being received or only recent publications are being received? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I have lost touch with the Legislature Library which I knew well. But, as far as I can remember, I think we have got most of the papers connected with India and the Indian question, and other interesting papers like abolition of the Upper House and the way in which it should be reformed. These are to be found in our Library."

Dehydrated potatoes.

* 62 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government entered into any contract with Messrs. Parry & Co. for the manufacture of dehydrated potatoes and if so, what the terms of the contract were;

(b) whether Messrs. Parry & Co. were given interest-free advances, and if so, what the amount is;

(c) whether besides interest-free advances, Messrs. Parry & Co. were given any amounts as outright grants;

(d) whether Messrs. Parry & Co. fulfilled the terms of the contract;

(e) the quantity and price of dehydrated potatoes supplied;

(f) whether the dehydrated potatoes were sold to consumers at cost price or at a loss to Government;

(g) the total expenditure to Government on this account; and

(h) whether the contract with Messrs. Parry & Co. still subsists?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) Yes. The contract was for the dehydration of both potatoes and sweet potatoes. Two copies of G.O. Ms. No. 73, Food, dated 14th March 1946 containing the terms of the contract are placed in the Library of the Legislature.

" (b) Yes; an interest-free advance of Rs. 3,00,000 (rupees three lakhs) was given, but the company was not allowed to charge interest on working capital in consideration of this advance.

" (c) Yes. The company was permitted to incur an expenditure of Rs. 5,000 on repairs to the factory and an expenditure of Rs. 10,000 on replacement of major component parts of one of the heating systems in the factory and to charge the entire amount of Rs. 15,000 to the cost of manufacture during the

contract period. The company was not allowed to include depreciation on plant in cost of manufacture in consideration of this fact.

"(d) The company was expected to produce in all 480 tons of dehydrated potatoes and sweet-potatoes during the period of contract. However, the quantity actually supplied by the company was about 388 tons. As regards the other terms and conditions of contract which relate mostly to finance and accounts matters, a detailed audit report received from the auditors is under scrutiny of the Government

"(e) The quantities of dehydrated potatoes and sweet potatoes actually supplied were about 244 tons and 144 tons, respectively. The price to be paid by the Government to the company has to be determined by the Government auditors in accordance with the basis laid down in the contract. The audit report is under examination of the Government and the cost price has not yet been determined. Pending the fixation of price by the Government Auditors, the Government made payments to the company as and when deliveries of the dehydrated potatoes were made at the provisional rate of As. 12 per lb. of dehydrated sweet potatoes and Re. 1–4–0 per lb. of dehydrated potatoes. The amounts thus paid to the company will be adjusted against the correct sum due to the company as worked out by the Government auditors and any difference due to the Government will be refunded by the company and any difference due to the company will be paid by the Government. It must be mentioned in this connexion that about 5 lb. of raw potatoes or sweet potatoes would be required to make 1 lb. of the dehydrated product.

"(f) Dehydrated potatoes and sweet potatoes were sold at the following subsidized rates :—

Dehydrated potatoes were sold to the general public at the rate of Re. 0–4–3 per lb. (the price to retailers of ration shops being Re. 0–4–0 per lb. which allows a profit of Re. 0–0–3 per lb. to the latter).

Dehydrated sweet potatoes were sold to the general public at Re. 0–2–3 per lb. (the price to retailers of ration shops being Re. 0–2–0 per lb.).

The sale price to bulk consumers, establishments, etc., was Re. 1–2–0 per lb. of dehydrated potatoes and Re. 0–10–0 per lb. of dehydrated sweet potatoes.

"(g) The total subsidy to the Government on sales at reduced rates to the general public has been estimated roughly as Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 lakhs on sales of dehydrated potatoes and about Rs. 1·6 lakhs on sales of dehydrated sweet potatoes.

"(h) No. The contract expired on 31st August 1946."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir whether interest-free advances were given only once or they were given oftener as and when the demand came from Messrs. Parry and Company? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have said that it was a lump sum that was paid. I do not have any information about instalmental payments."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I take it that it is not known to Government what will be the ultimate loss till the audit report is scrutinized? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, whether any such advance was given to other companies?."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" There was only one company that was dehydrating potatoes, and that was Messrs Parry & Co."

Motor Transport Co-operative Societies for Ex-Servicemen.

* 63 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : With reference to answer to question No. 159 answered on 23rd April 1947 will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Motor Transport Co-operative Societies for ex-servicemen so far organized, the number of members, share-capital collected, etc. ;

(*b*) whether Managers are being appointed in these Societies; and if so, who the appointing authority is ;

(*c*) whether these Managers are governed by any Service Rules regarding their status, emoluments, etc. ;

(*d*) whether the Director of Resettlement is competent to appoint any one he likes without insisting on qualifications, etc. ; and

(*e*) who the Managers appointed are, their qualifications, salary fixed, etc.?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) The Government accorded general approval for the formation of 20 Motor Transport Co-operative Societies for ex-servicemen. It has been decided to form 12 societies for the present. There were 1,780 members with a share-capital of Rs. 3,98,074 on 10th June 1947.

" (*b*) Managers have been selected for seven societies by the Director of Resettlement and Employment. Their appointment will have to be approved by the Board of Directors of the concerned societies after the societies have started work.

" (*c*) The posts of Managers are not governed by any service rules.